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1st. The Quartermaster General is authorized to impress army supplies, labor and transportation (except that belonging to rail road companies and government contractors), when he shall think it necessary to the public service.

2d. This power may be conferred by the Quartermaster General upon purchasing officers and agents of his department ; which officers may in turn confer similar powers upon such subordinates as the Quartermaster General shall approve.

3d. All army supplies, labor and transportation impressed, will be paid for at reasonable prices, not exceeding in any case, rates ordered from time to time by the Secretary of War, and communicated to the Quartermaster General : and officers and agents are specially instructed to give to the owners thereof receipts, stating distinctly the description, quality, quantity and price of the army supplies, or the kind, rate of hire and time employed of the labor and transportation impressed ; and designating the officer by whom payment for the same will be made, who, in case he has no funds on hand, shall give a certificate, which will enable the party to obtain payment from the nearest disbursing officer of the department of the Quartermaster General.

4th. It shall be the duty of the officer or agent impressing as aforesaid, to leave to each person, whose property is impressed, a sufficiency of supplies for the use of his family and plantation, and in impressing, to take, in preference, army supplies owned by speculators.

5th. The officer or agent impressing shall in all cases exhibit his written authority to impress, to the party or parties interested, or to his or their agent ; and no impressment shall be made (unless authorized by the Secretary of War, or under necessity, ordered by generals commanding armies in the field), except by officers and agents authorized as above, and by them only in conformity to orders ; and any one acting without or beyond authority in the above, will be held strictly responsible.

6th. The Quartermaster General shall see that a minute and accurate return of all such impressments as come within the range of his department, be made to his office monthly, and a record thereof be kept.

(Signed)

JAMES A. SEDDON,

Secretary of War.

Dec. 26th, 1862.

Official.

Q. M. General's Office,

Richmond, Dec. 29th, 1862.

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